

**To:** Enck, Judith[Enck.Judith@epa.gov]  
**From:** Garvin, Shawn  
**Sent:** Tue 3/24/2015 5:37:40 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Sirenusa Condo Methyl Bromide Release Update

Judith – You are getting coverage in my hometown paper (including your picture – at least the online version)...

Shawn

Pesticide poisons Del. family in Caribbean A top Tatnall School administrator and his family suffered serious pesticide "poisoning" in their luxury condo while vacationing in the U.S. Virgin Islands last week, according to federal environmental officials and a Wilmington attorney who spent time with them on St. John. Steve Esmond, the head of Tatnall's middle school, his wife, Dr. Theresa Devine, and their two teenage sons "were seriously exposed to a highly toxic chemical at their rental condominium," said James J. Maron, the lawyer from Wilmington who is acting as the family spokesman. The family, who live in Wilmington, is in the process of being airlifted back to the United States and all except Devine are in critical condition, Maron said. The suspected source of the poisoning is methyl bromide, which might have been used to fumigate a room at the Sirenusa resort where the family was staying, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said in a news release late Monday afternoon. Methyl bromide is restricted in the United States due to its "acute toxicity," the EPA release said. "Only certified applicators are allowed to use it in certain agricultural settings and it is not authorized for use in dwellings. Health effects of acute exposure to methyl bromide are serious and include central nervous system and respiratory system damage."

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2015 11:13 PM  
**To:** Garvin, Shawn  
**Subject:** Re: Sirenusa Condo Methyl Bromide Release Update

**Ex. 7(a)** I met with the local env  
commissioner today and will raise this Tomorrow when I meet with the new governor. Tx

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 23, 2015, at 11:01 PM, Garvin, Shawn <[garvin.shawn@epa.gov](mailto:garvin.shawn@epa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks. Let me know if you need any support.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 23, 2015, at 10:50 PM, Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov> wrote:

Fyi

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Jimenez, Christopher" <Jimenez.Christopher@epa.gov>  
**Date:** March 23, 2015 at 5:03:48 PM AST  
**To:** R2 ER Notification List <R2\_ER\_Notification\_List@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Kahn, Paul" <Kahn.Paul@epa.gov>, "Gregor, Margaret" <Gregor.Margaret@epa.gov>, "Lucarino, Kelli" <Lucarino.Kelli@epa.gov>, "Norrell, Neil" <Norrell.Neil@epa.gov>, "Daloia, James" <daloia.james@epa.gov>, "Mosher, Eric" <Mosher.Eric@epa.gov>, "DOnofrio, Cris" <DOnofrio.Cris@epa.gov>, "Garrison, Geoffrey" <Garrison.Geoffrey@epa.gov>, R2 RRC <R2\_RRC@epa.gov>, "Eoc, Epahq" <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>, "Compton, Harry" <Compton.Harry@epa.gov>, "Kovak, Brian" <Kovak.Brian@epa.gov>, "Singhvi, Raj" <Singhvi.Raj@epa.gov>, R2 ER Mgmt Notification List <R2\_ER\_Mgmt\_Notification\_List@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Sirenusa Condo Methyl Bromide Release Update

**Update on Sirenusa Condo Methyl Bromide Release, Cruz Bay, St. John**

As of 1400 hours today the following information was relayed by OSC Geoff Garrison to REOC. The condo complex consists of 22 units, 8 of which are privately owned. Maintenance of the impacted units is left to a management company who arranged to have pesticide applied to the interiors, in this case Terminex on St. Thomas. It was applied in a lower unit and the fumes seemingly moved upwards into the unit above which was occupied by a family on vacation. The pesticide applied was methyl bromide, prohibited for residential use by EPA in 2005, although some exemptions for agricultural use are allowed until pre-existing supplies are exhausted. EPA will enter and sample/test the lower and upper units.

EPA OSCs are working with DPNR reps to try to locate any warehoused containers of the pesticide and are drafting sampling plan and HASP. Personnel on scene are two EPA OSCs, 2 SERAS techs and 2 RST techs. ERT indoor air scientist will arrive on St. Thomas later this evening. ORC has assigned two attorneys to this incident, one for CERCLA and one for Pesticides. CID has 3 special agents enroute to the scene.